

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 2 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 21-37 are pending in this application. Claims 21-33 stand withdrawn.

By this Amendment, claim 34 is amended to delete a feature. Fig. 2 is amended to be labeled as "prior art," as the Examiner requested. Claims 35-37 are added to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, page 12, lines 21-25; and page 21, lines 8-18. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiners Nguyen and Liao for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the February 28, 2008 telephone interview. The substance of the telephone interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Fig. 2 is amended to be labeled as "prior art," as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,077,483 to Locker et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Locker discloses in Fig. 1 a honeycomb structure having a substrate skin 12 and a barrier coating 14. The Office Action further asserts that the coating is made of inorganic material, citing Locker at cols. 5 and 6. Thus, the Office Action asserts that Locker discloses the "inorganic material" of item v recited in claim 34, rendering claim 34 anticipated or obvious.

Claim 34 is amended, as outlined above. In particular, claim 34 is amended to delete item no. v. Thus, the rejection of claim 34 based on the originally recited item v becomes moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

During the telephone interview, the Examiners asked whether the term "disappear" recited in items i, iii and iv is a step of the recited method. Applicant submits that the term "disappear," as currently recited, only requires a capability. New claims 35-37 are added to recite a separate method step regarding the disappearance. New claims 35-37 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 34, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 34-37 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GXL/aps

Attachment:
Replacement Sheet

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